

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings and versions thereof.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transforming a plant by introducing a heterologous nucleic acid encoding a protein wherein the nucleic acid comprises a polyadenylation signal sequence and a GT rich sequence, which comprises

1) identifying a polyadenylation signal sequence and a GT rich sequence in the heterologous nucleic acid wherein the polyadenylation signal sequence is selected from the group consisting of ATTTA, NATAAA, ANTAAA, AANAAA, AATNAA, AATANA, and AATAAN of which N is A, G, C or T and the GT rich sequence is 8 or more consecutive G and/or T nucleotides,

2) modifying the polyadenylation signal sequence and the GT rich sequence without inactivating ~~altering the amino acid sequence of~~ the protein encoded by the heterologous nucleic acid,

3) introducing the modified heterologous nucleic acid into the plant, and

4) expressing the modified heterologous nucleic acid in the plant in the transformed plant wherein the heterologous nucleic acid comprises a modified polyadenylation signal sequence and a modified GT rich sequence.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the heterologous nucleic acid is ~~derived~~ from yeast.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polyadenylation signal sequence is located downstream from a GT rich sequence.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the modification of the polyadenylation signal sequence and the GT rich sequence is performed based on a codon usage of the plant to be transformed.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the modification of the polyadenylation signal sequence is performed so as not to have an ATTTA sequence.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized by having a Kozak sequence of ACCATGG upstream of the initiation codon of the heterologous nucleic acid.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the heterologous nucleic acid encodes a protein involved in absorption of nutrients.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the heterologous nucleic acid encodes a ferric-chelate reductase FRE1.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the heterologous nucleic acid encoding ferric-chelate reductase FRE1 is derived from yeast.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the plant is germinaeae.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the plant is tobacco.

15. (Previously presented) A transformed plant which can be produced by the method according to-claim 1.

16. (Currently Amended) A seed produced by the plant according to claim 15, wherein said seed comprises the heterologous nucleic acid.

17. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polyadenylation signal sequence and the GT rich sequence are modified without altering the amino acid sequence of the encoded protein.